

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A textile fabric formed from synthetic yarns and exhibiting resistance to strength degradation due to ultraviolet irradiation, said fabric comprising: an upholstery fabric having a plurality of elastomeric synthetic yarns running in a first direction and a plurality of synthetic yarns running in a second direction substantially transverse to said first direction, wherein said elastomeric synthetic yarns running in said first direction comprise not less than about 40 percent by weight of said upholstery fabric; are characterized by an elongation at break of not less than about 70 percent and retain not less than about 90 percent of their tensile strength following accelerated exposure to 488 kilojoules of ultraviolet irradiation.
2. The invention as in claim 1, wherein said elastomeric synthetic yarns running in said first direction are bicomponent sheath/core elastomeric yarns.
3. The invention as in Claim 2, wherein said bicomponent sheath/core elastomeric yarns comprise a sheath component characterized by a melting point which is at least 30°F below the melting point of the core component.
4. The invention as in Claim 1, wherein said elastomeric synthetic yarns running in said first direction are characterized by an elongation at break of not less than about 80 percent.

5. The invention as in Claim 1, wherein said elastomeric synthetic yarns running in said first direction are characterized by an elongation at break of not less than about 90 percent.

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